



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor lobbies key decision-makers for stimulus dollars
Healy meeting with state officials in Columbus today

CANTON, Ohio – Mayor William Healy traveled to the Statehouse on Wednesday to lobby high-ranking state officials on behalf of local projects seeking federal stimulus funds. It is estimated that several thousand requests worth billions of dollars have been submitted for approval since the stimulus program was announced, including hundreds from Canton and Stark County.

“We are aggressively pursuing recovery dollars to make sure our city gets its fair share,” Healy said. “Canton’s economy has been hit hard over the past 25 years. These stimulus funds, while not a silver bullet, will allow us to inject some much-needed capital into local projects that promise to begin reversing this downward trend.”

Healy said a large majority of the federal stimulus funds coming to Ohio are going to make their first stop in the Governor’s office before being allocated across the state. Because state lawmakers will also have a hand in the distribution process, the Mayor has scheduled to meet with both legislative leaders and local representatives to ensure that all key players are well-informed about Canton projects when making their recommendations.

“We don’t want to find ourselves in a situation where we ask ‘what if,’” Healy said. “We’re going to leave no stone unturned in our efforts to bring this money back to Canton.”

Healy is lobbying state officials on both Wednesday and Thursday, and has met or is currently scheduled to meet separately with each of the following individuals:

- Mr. John Haseley, Governor’s Chief of Staff
- Ohio House Majority Floor Leader Jennifer Garrison (D-Marietta)
- Ohio State Senator Kirk Schuring (R-Canton)
- Ohio State Rep. Steven Slesnick (D-Canton)
- Mr. Henry Guzmán, Director, Ohio Department of Public Safety
- Mr. Mark Barbash, Director, Ohio Department of Development
- Ms. Deb Scherer, Director, ODOT International Trade Division

Additional meetings regarding stimulus funds and City projects are being scheduled as time permits.

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